

Application No. 10/075,404  
Response to the Office Action Mailed February 3, 2005  
Amendment dated August 2, 2005

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

*Listing of Claims:*

Claims 1-22 cancelled

Claim 23 (previously presented): In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the run field is established comprising:

establishing the run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the fluid separation medium is a buffered solution containing a non-crosslinked polymer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the run field is established comprising:

establishing the run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the analyte species are nucleic acid.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.

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Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when an electric ramp is not used.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 31, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.

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Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when an electric ramp is not used.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 38, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.